

13 December 1957

Dear Jim,

Wow! Your signal of 23 November really stung! A boo-boo occurred, but I feel I should try to explain how it happened. First, I've been operating under general headquarters' instructions that cables be used only when absolutely necessary -- thus, I did not send you a cable when the boys arrived. Since the boys had their return reservations before departing Washington and their return was also confirmed during the long-distance telephone conversation with Washington, I felt there was no need to send a cable also.

Since Bob A. was scheduled to depart the same day as Art would arrive and Bob would probably be interested in a first-hand account of Art's activities here, it was decided to alert Bob that Art would call him on arrival in New York so that they could make plans to meet. This cable was dictated on the run and was sent out as a regular priority cable for Bob. Not having seen the final version of the cable to Bob or even a copy thereof and unaware that it had not gone in our system, I double-talked over the phone a cable for you the next day immediately upon notification by phone of your cable of 21 November concerning Jack and Ed. It should also be pointed out that the two cables were dictated to two different secretaries and no specific instructions on the system were issued in either case. There was no reason to suspect that a somewhat routine cable to Bob should be sent in the system. However, all members of our club here are aware that all cables to you are handled in the system. Thus, when I dictated the memo for you it automatically went in the system. If the above is confusing, I'll have to wait till we next see each other to explain more clearly. At any rate, I'm sorry for the confusion and we'll try to avoid any repetition. Also, in the future all arrivals and departures will be cabled to you as soon as possible.

As you've no doubt heard, Art's presence here was a tremendous success. It was a performance worthy of an Academy Award. Not only are [redacted] colleagues still raving about the performance, but they're also retelling some of Art's wonderful stories, including the one about the general and the dandelions (or was it geraniums?). The [redacted] tell the story with dahlias.

For the past couple of months the work of Alan's committee has been bogged down with attempts to persuade [redacted] to create a system which would permit a free, easy and continuous exchange of ideas between the technicians and the scientific experts. [redacted] feels his

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responsibility very strongly. The concessions he has made are a step in the right direction and should not jeopardize security. [REDACTED] agrees with me that progress has been made and that the committee cannot logically make any other demands on [REDACTED] until the scientific experts start contributing substantially to the effort. The burden of proof is definitely on the committee members to get their associates to "dig in" and achieve results. Short of having the unit transferred to [REDACTED] I don't think the committee can expect any further concessions, and quite frankly I don't think they need them.

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I've been asked quite often by my friends on the committee why it was decided to give control of the system to a single [REDACTED] rather than to the [REDACTED]. I've explained as best I could and they seemed satisfied. However, they keep hinting that Washington should transfer control to the [REDACTED] when [REDACTED] transfers to another assignment. To set the record straight, everyone I know is still very fond of [REDACTED], but they dislike having to operate under a rigid security system. This, of course, is not unusual.

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Francis has been after me for some time to try to arrange a trip for him to the States. I've put him off on the grounds that the people back home were literally "swamped" with work and that we ought to wait until things seemed to be a little calmer. Since the tempo is presumably somewhat relaxed and he arranged with Don S. for transportation, I agreed to send the cable.

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A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you, the [REDACTED] family, [REDACTED] and the committee. I hope you get a chance to visit with us before my tour is over.

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Best wishes,

